

Director of Training

19 June 1961

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Comments regarding training of Project IDEALIST for DPO

1. Because this was our first course in survival, black movement and resistance to enemy interrogation for personnel of Project IDEALIST, DPO, I feel there are certain observations which should be made as a means of assuring that future training of IDEALIST personnel be better. This is not to say that the course given during the period 22 May through 2 June was not a success - it was a good course. We believe that the students' chances for carrying out their mission was considerably enhanced by the training, but we believe that it could have been better.

2. While we are aware of the highly classified nature and secrecy of this training program and therefore the need for the highest security, it is our feeling that the "need-to-know" principle was unrealistically applied. We do not need to know, nor do we ask anything regarding the specific mission and even details thereof, but, obviously, to teach survival it becomes essential for us to know in general terms the type of terrain involved and climatic conditions. This we finally got. It is essential also that we be told what previous training individuals assigned for training here have had. It was only after the course had run two days that we learned that the students had already been trained in a forty-eight hour exercise in Sea Survival. It was also learned from the students that they had seen all the survival films that we had scheduled and, in addition, lectures ^{here} ^{and} specifically related to each film shown. A survival kit, which was to be used operationally, was promised but never received and, finally, there seemed to be a difference of opinion among DPO personnel as to whether or not the interrogation exercise planned should be included.

3. All in all, in order to plan the training of the two individuals concerned, our personnel attended a total of six meetings between 6 April and 19 May in order to satisfy changing requirements. I believe that the majority of our problems arose from a failure to concoct a cover story true in its requirements for us, if not true in its mission and purpose, or, in lieu of that, a candid disclosure to us of information that we "need to know" to get the job done.

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b. Please be assured that this is not said in any recriminatory way for we found each of the DPD officers with whom we worked dedicated and eager to get the best possible job done, but is written with the end that future training programs of this kind may be better and more effective.

c. I am forwarding herewith a detailed breakdown of the training given the DPD personnel.

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Attachment:

As stated above